

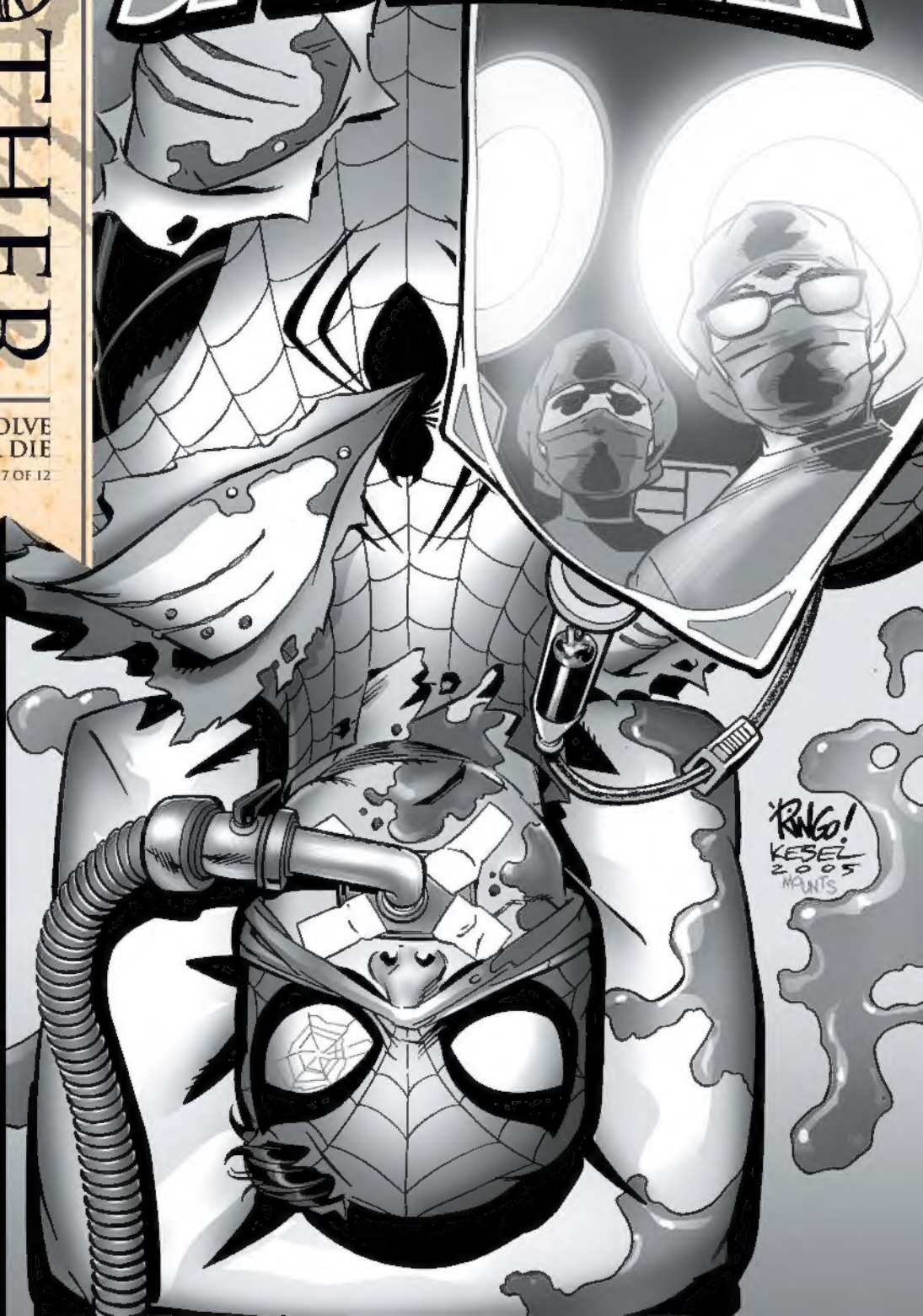
MARVEL
3 .com


J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI • MIKE WIERINGO

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN®

THE
OTHER

EVOLVE
OR DIE
PART 7 OF 12





AS HE SURVEYS THE FORM THAT LIES
MOTIONLESS ON THE STREET BEFORE
HIM, HE KNOWS TWO THINGS.

HE KNOWS THAT HE HAS WON,
THAT HE HAS BEATEN HIS ENEMY.

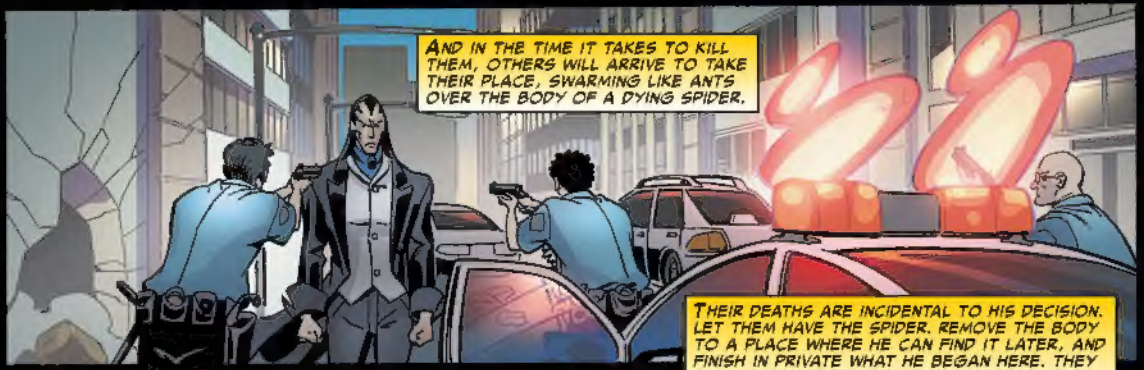
AND HE KNOWS THAT THE SOUL, THE SPIRIT,
THE ESSENCE WITHIN THE SHATTERED BODY
STILL BURNS AS BRIGHTLY AS IT DID BEFORE...
MORE, PERHAPS, SENSING ITS OWN IMMINENT
DEATH, THE WAY A CANDLE GUTTERS
BRIGHT A MOMENT BEFORE THE FLAME DIES.

AND NOW...NOW
IT IS TIME.

TIME TO
FEED.



THE SIRENS ARE AN INTERRUPTION, AN ANNOYANCE. FOR ALL HIS STRENGTH, HE IS NOT INVULNERABLE, NOR CAN HE FEED AND FIGHT AT THE SAME TIME.



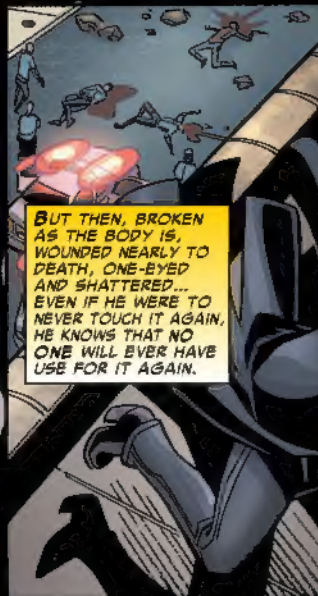
AND IN THE TIME IT TAKES TO KILL THEM, OTHERS WILL ARRIVE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE, SWARMING LIKE ANTS OVER THE BODY OF A DYING SPIDER.



THEIR DEATHS ARE INCIDENTAL TO HIS DECISION. LET THEM HAVE THE SPIDER. REMOVE THE BODY TO A PLACE WHERE HE CAN FIND IT LATER, AND FINISH IN PRIVATE WHAT HE BEGAN HERE. THEY WILL DO HIM A SERVICE, ENSURING THAT THE BODY IS STILL ALIVE WHEN HE COMES FOR IT.



HE HAS NO USE FOR THE BODY, IN ANY EVENT.



BUT THEN, BROKEN AS THE BODY IS, WOUNDED NEARLY TO DEATH, ONE-EYED AND SHATTERED... EVEN IF HE WERE TO NEVER TOUCH IT AGAIN, HE KNOWS THAT NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE USE FOR IT AGAIN.



HE HAS WON.



HE HAS WON.



GET BACK!

HOLD THOSE PEOPLE BACK!

WE NEED AN AMBULANCE OVER HERE!

HOLY--

WHERE THE HELL'S THE PARAMEDIC!

--LOOK!

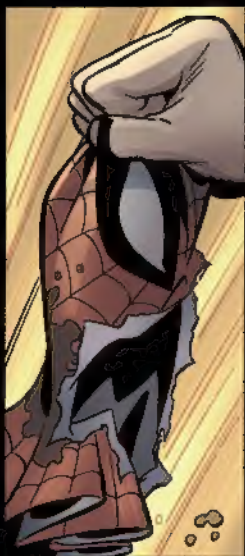


IT'S HIM!

I KNOW, IT'S WHAT THE REPORTS--

EVERYBODY THAT DOESN'T NEED TO BE HERE, BACK UP!

LET ME THROUGH!





EXPERIMENTAL
EYE PROLOGUE
CHARACTER
INTRODUCTION
ADVANCEMENT



CODE
BLUE! CODE
BLUE!

STANDING
BY TO
RECEIVE--

WE'RE
LOSING HIM--

CLEAR THE
WAY! GET OUT
OF THE--

EXPERIMENTAL
EYE PROLOGUE
CHARACTER
INTRODUCTION
ADVANCEMENT



CONFIRM
MULTIPLE RIBS
BROKEN--

BONE
PENETRATED
PATIENT'S LEFT
LUNG, COLLAPSING
IT, FILLING WITH
FLUID--

PULSE
IRREGULAR--

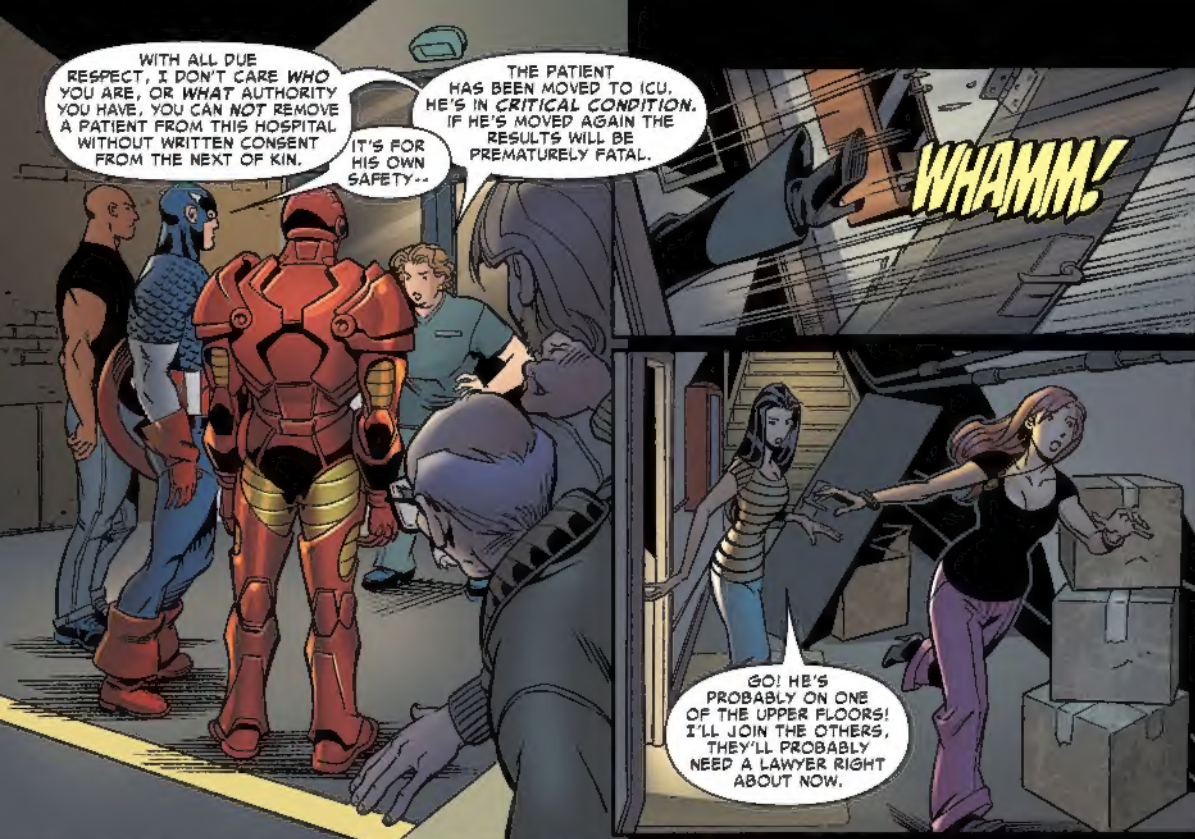
ARTERIAL
TEAR AT UPPER
VENA CAVA--

CONCUSSION,
HEAVY INTRACRANIAL
BLEEDING--

EXPERIMENTAL
EYE PROLOGUE
CHARACTER
INTRODUCTION
ADVANCEMENT

...ANY WAY
TO NOTIFY HIS
NEXT OF KIN...BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE FOR
GOODBYES...?





WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, OR WHAT AUTHORITY YOU HAVE, YOU CAN NOT REMOVE A PATIENT FROM THIS HOSPITAL WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE NEXT OF KIN.

IT'S FOR HIS OWN SAFETY--

THE PATIENT HAS BEEN MOVED TO ICU. HE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION. IF HE'S MOVED AGAIN THE RESULTS WILL BE PREMATURELY FATAL.

GO! HE'S PROBABLY ON ONE OF THE UPPER FLOORS! I'LL JOIN THE OTHERS, THEY'LL PROBABLY NEED A LAWYER RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

I'M COMING, PETER... I'M COMING... HOLD ON FOR ME, BABY... HOLD ON FOR ME...

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN... PREMATURELY FATAL?"

AS I SAID, THEY'VE ISOLATED AND TEMPORARILY STABILIZED THE PATIENT, BUT...

...I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING MORE THEY CAN DO. NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO. THE DAMAGE WAS TOO EXTENSIVE.

"HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT."



NOW...WE
CAN AT LAST
FINISH THIS.



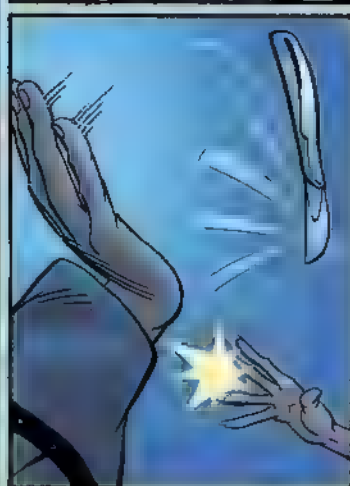
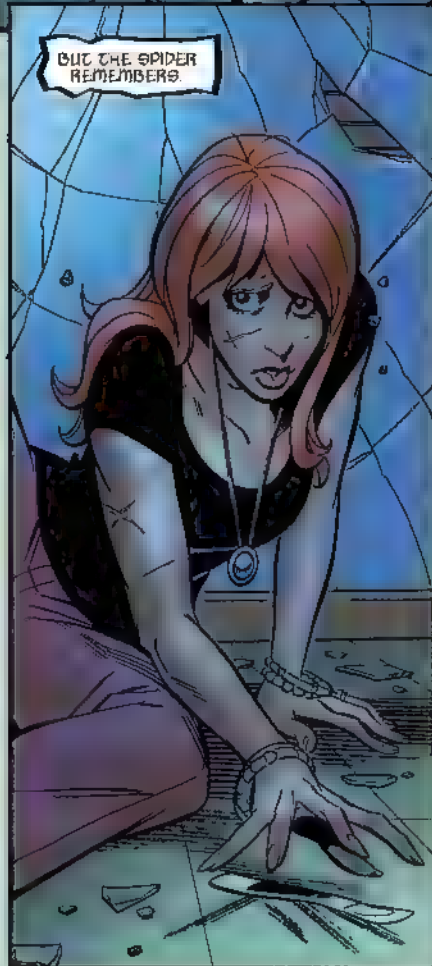
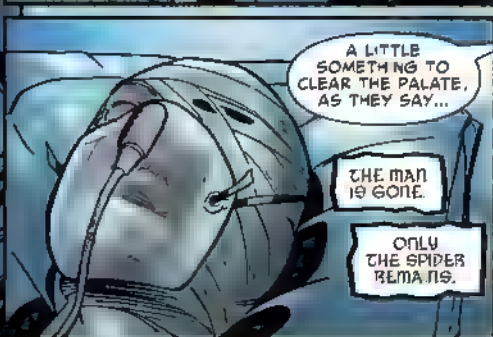
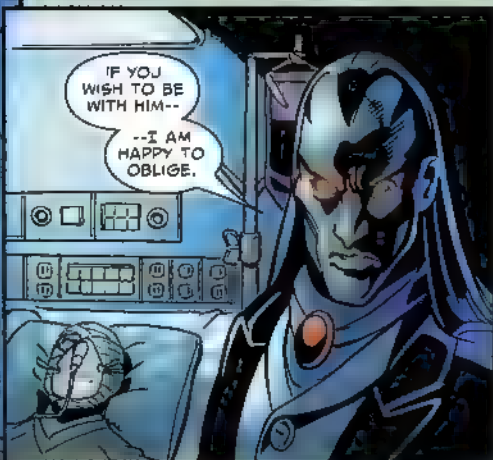
THE CONSUMPTION...
OF CONSUMPTION... TO TAKE
ALL YOUR STRENGTH...
ALL YOUR POWER...ALL YOU
ARE...ALL YOU HAVE
EVER BEEN...



...AND ALL YOU
WOULD EVER HAVE
BECOME...FOR
MY OWN.



**LEAVE HIM
ALONE!**

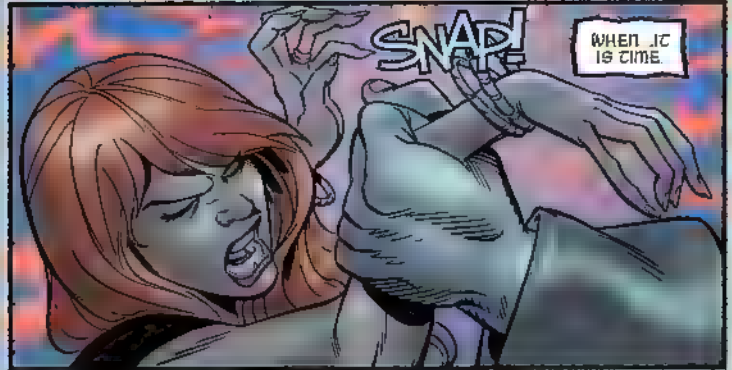




EVEN DYING THE SPIDER KNOWS
WHEN TO GO DORMANT. WHEN
TO CONSERVE ITS STRENGTH
FOR ONE LAST MOVE.

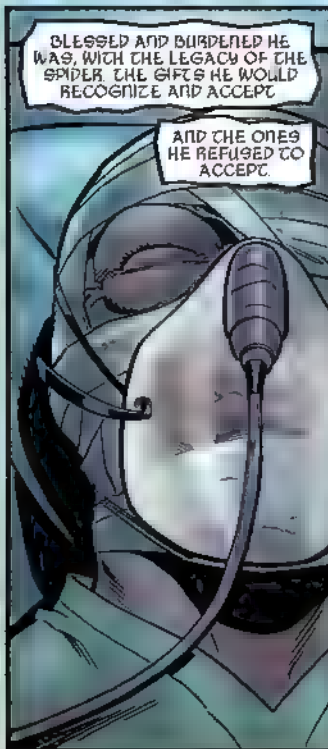


WHEN TO
SPEND ITS LAST
BREATH.



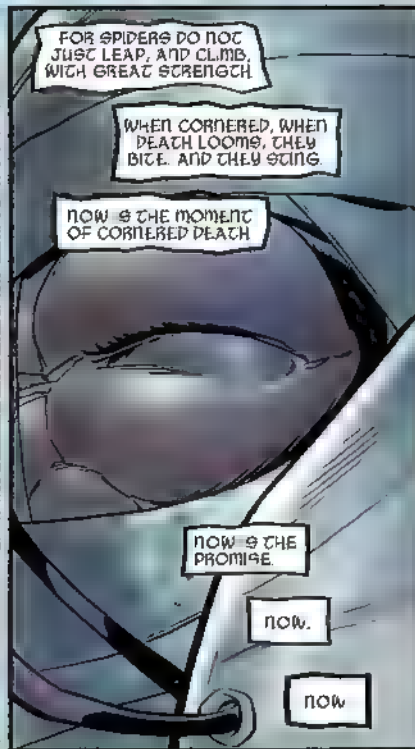
SNAP!

WHEN IT
IS TIME



BLESSED AND BURDENED HE
WAS, WITH THE LEGACY OF THE
SPIDER. THE GIFTS HE WOULD
RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT.

AND THE ONES
HE REFUSED TO
ACCEPT.



FOR SPIDERS DO NOT
JUST LEAP, AND CLIMB,
WITH GREAT STRENGTH.

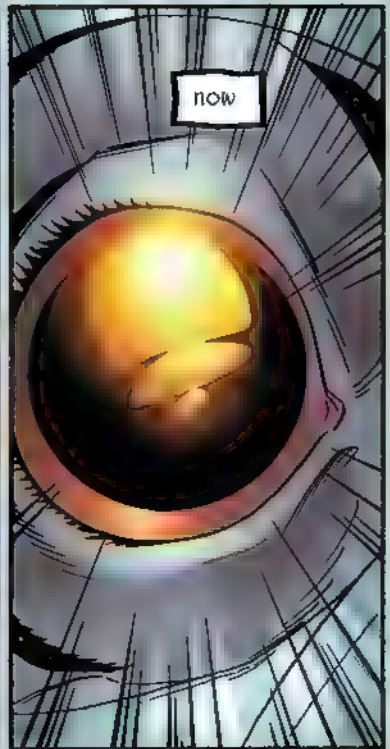
WHEN CORNERED, WHEN
DEATH LOOMS, THEY
BITE. AND THEY STING.

NOW IS THE MOMENT
OF CORNERED DEATH.

NOW IS THE
PROMISE.

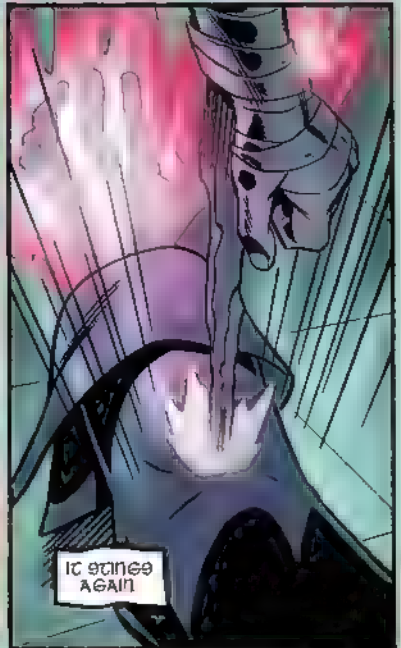
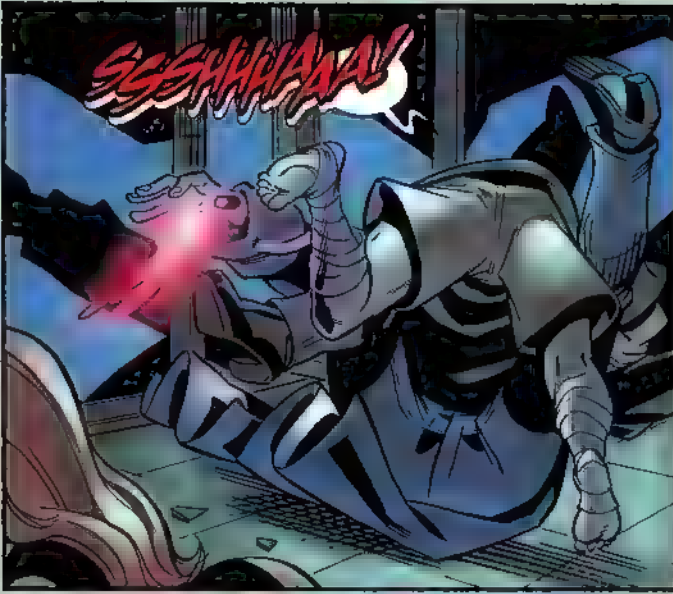
NOW.

NOW



now





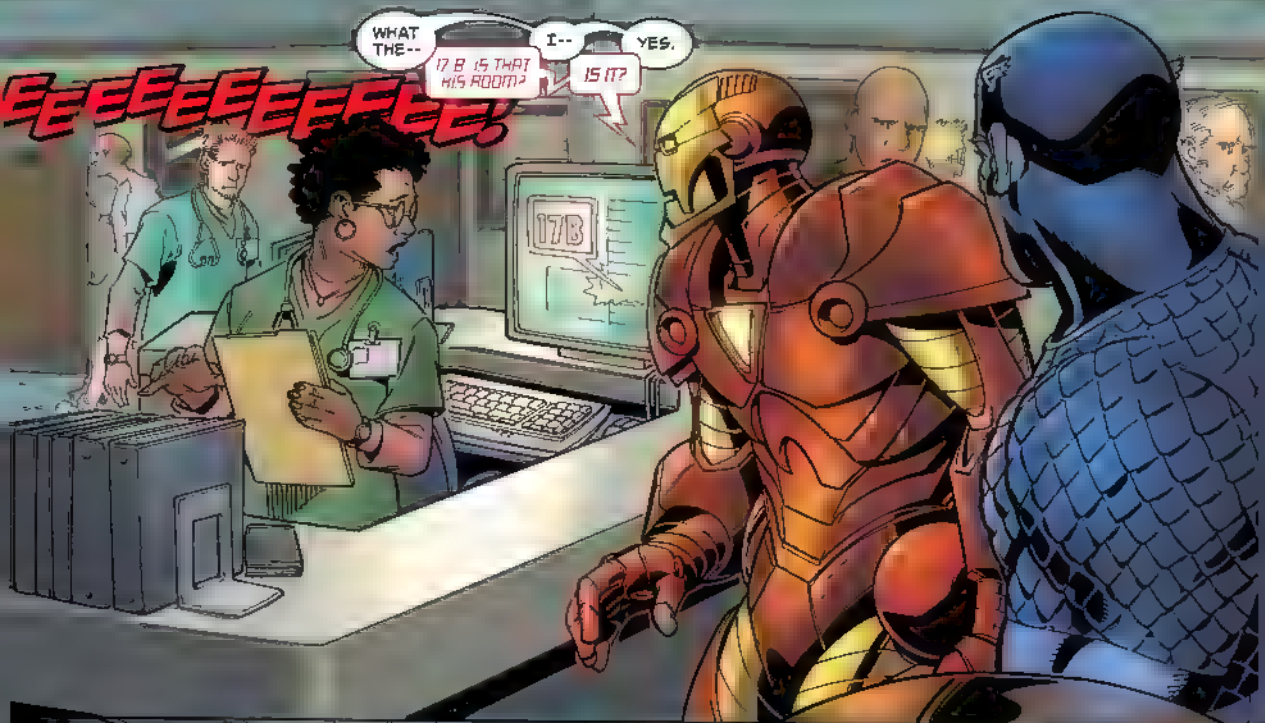
AND WHEN THE
SPIDER BITES...
WHEN THE
SPIDER FEEDS...

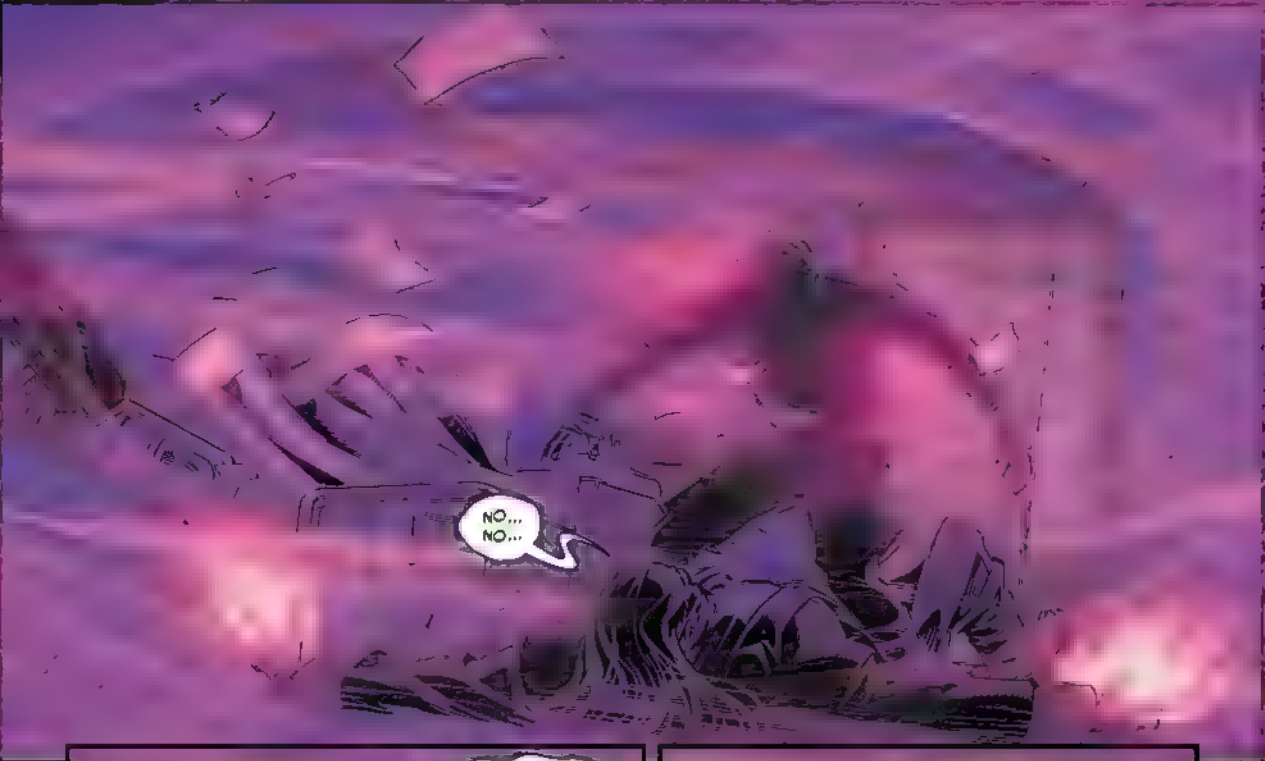
...IT ALWAYS
SCARES AT
THE HEAD

HUCCHHH...

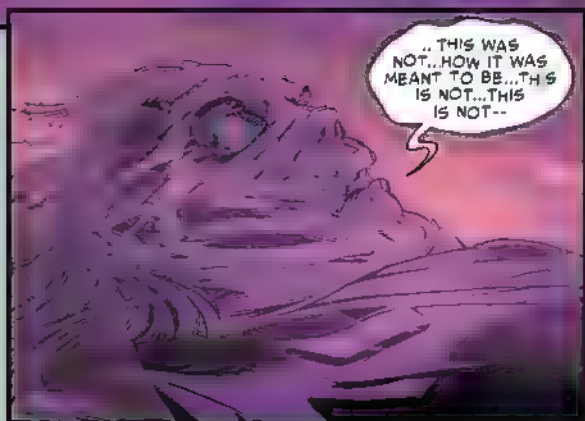
OHMYGOD...
OHMYGOD

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE!





NO...
NO...



...THIS WAS
NOT...HOW IT WAS
MEANT TO BE...THIS
IS NOT...THIS
IS NOT--



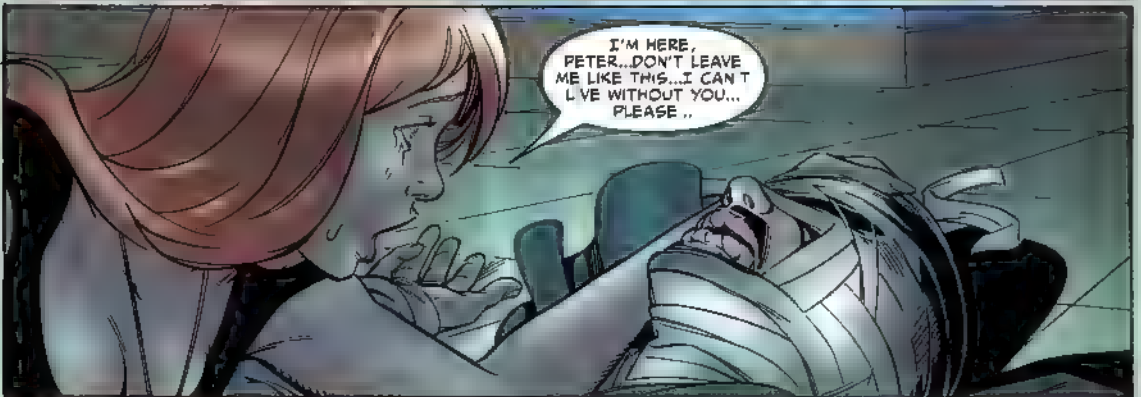
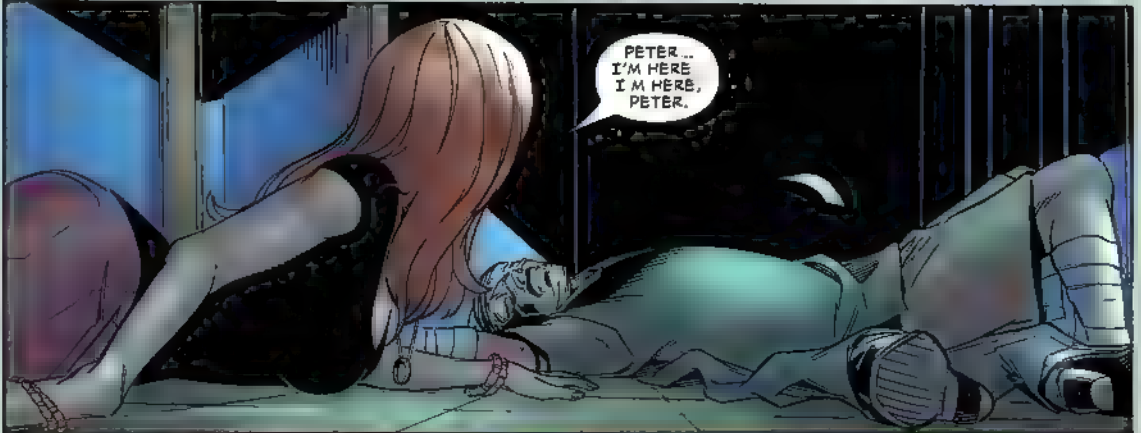
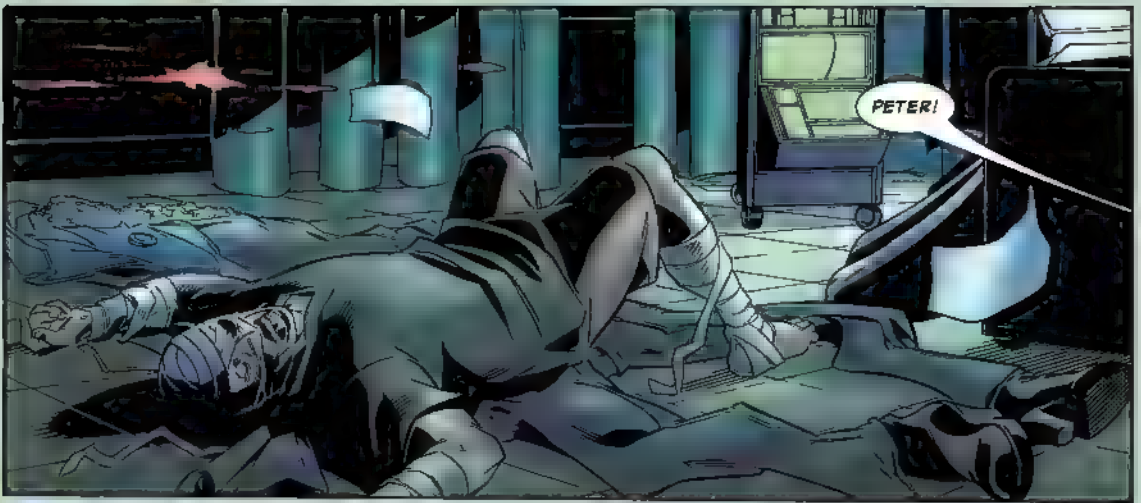
...SSSSHHH...

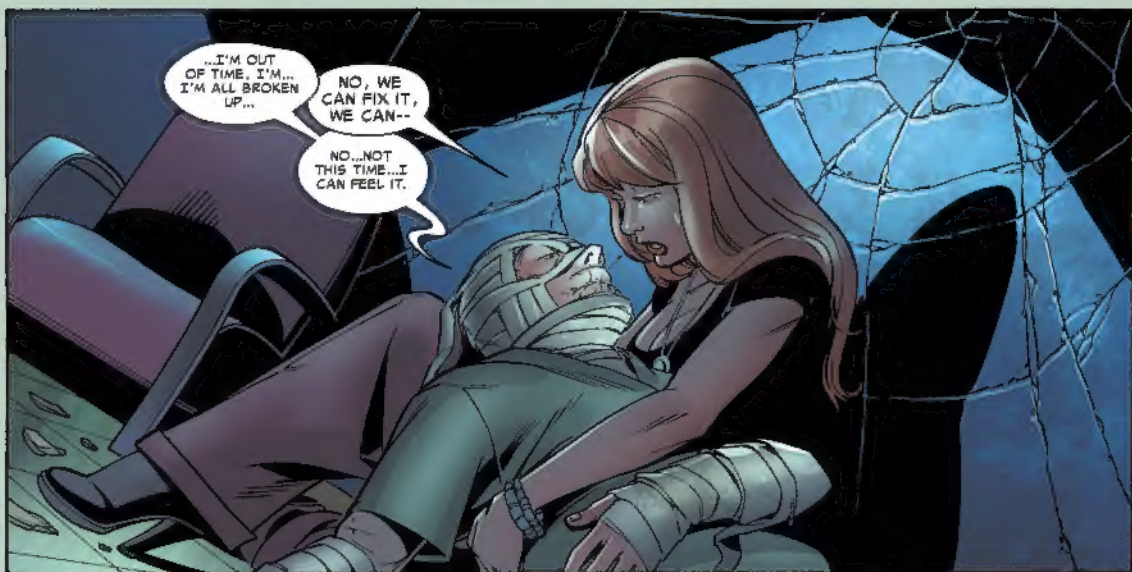


AAAGGGGHHH!



PETER...?





...I'M OUT
OF TIME. I'M...
I'M ALL BROKEN
UP...

NO, WE
CAN FIX IT,
WE CAN--

NO...NOT
THIS TIME...I
CAN FEEL IT.



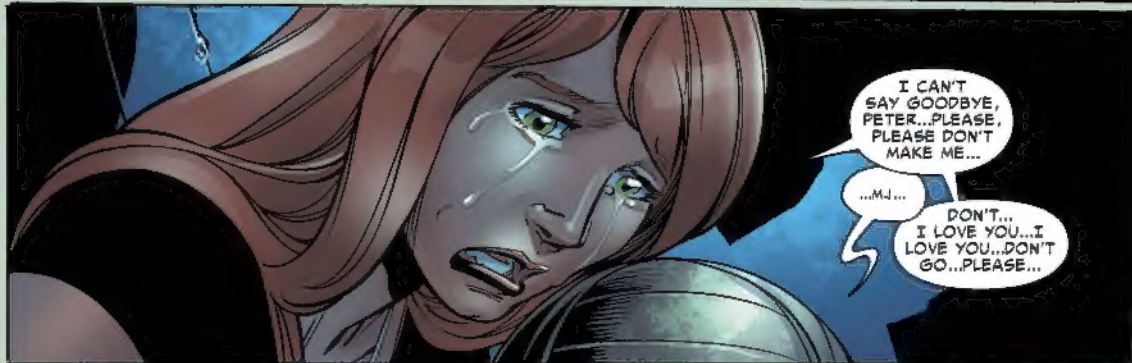
BUT I CAN'T
GO...WITHOUT
SAYING...I LOVE
YOU...ONE LAST
TIME.

NO...

...BE HAPPY,
MJ...DON'T GIVE
UP...LIVE...FOR
ME...

I
CAN'T--

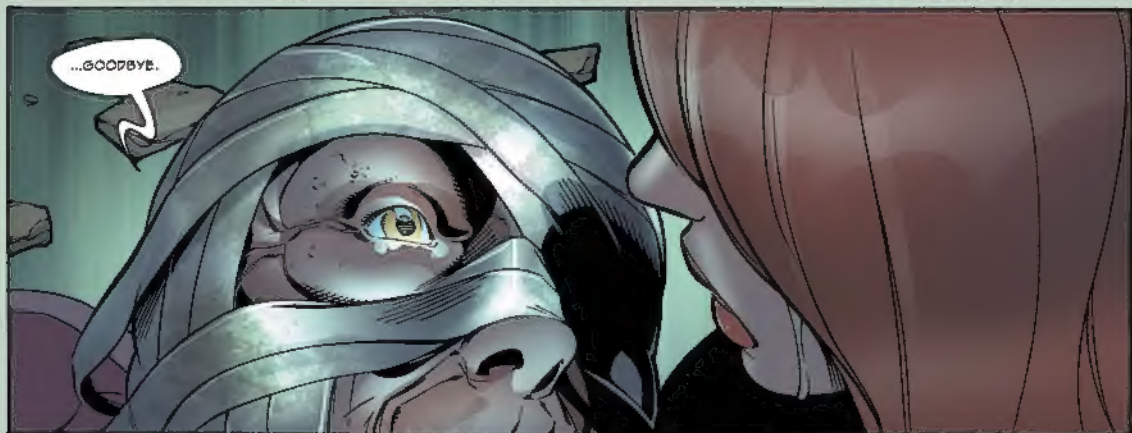
...PLEASE...



I CAN'T
SAY GOODBYE,
PETER...PLEASE,
PLEASE DON'T
MAKE ME...

...Mm...

DON'T...
I LOVE YOU...I
LOVE YOU...DON'T
GO...PLEASE...



...GOODBYE.



FOR THE NEXT HOUR, THEY SAY
SOFT THINGS TO HER...THEY TELL
HER THAT HE DIED BRAVELY...THAT
HE SAVED HER BECAUSE HE
WANTED HER TO LIVE ON AFTER HIM.

THE REST IS A BLUR OF
SOUND. NONE OF THE
WORDS SEEM TO LINE UP.

I DON'T CARE IF THEY
COMPLAIN. TELL THEM
TO SEND ME A BILL.

THEY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT
MOVING HIM...ABOUT MOVING THE
BODY...OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.

NO ONE CAN KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED.

THAT SPIDER-MAN
IS DEAD.

NO ONE CAN TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE
SITUATION TO TAKE
FINGERPRINTS, OR
DENTAL RECORDS.

THEY CANNOT ALLOW
ANYTHING TO COME
BACK TO HER, OR TO
PETER'S AUNT.

THEY KNOW WHAT TO
DO. BECAUSE THEY
HAVE DONE IT BEFORE.
ALL OF THEM.

ALL OF
THEM.

BUT AS SHE SURVEYS
THE FORM THAT LIES
MOTIONLESS ON THE
GURNIEY BEFORE HER,
SHE KNOWS
ONLY TWO THINGS.

THAT NONE OF THE
WORDS MATTER.

NONE OF
THEM.

AND THAT SHE WILL SPEND
THE REST OF HER LIFE TURNING
TO SAY SOMETHING TO THE
ONE PERSON WHO MEANS MORE
TO HER THAN LIFE ITSELF...
WHO IS NO LONGER THERE.

BECAUSE THE MAN
SHE LOVES IS DEAD.

THE MAN SHE
LOVES IS DEAD.

TO BE CONTINUED
IN MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN #21